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“Transmitted via email”

March 24, 2004

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 190-4-5

SUBJECT: ECS – AREA RESIDUE MANAGEMENT ACTION PLANS

Purpose: To transmit guidance regarding the development and implementation of Area level “Residue Management Action Plans” and completion of the 2004 CTIC Crop Residue Management Transect.

Expiration Date: September 30, 2004

**Action Needed by April 20, 2004**

In order to maintain the technical capabilities of our field staff and to reinforce the importance of residue management in cropland conservation planning, each ASTC (FO) will develop and implement an Area action plan that provides training on the residue management practices in our FOTG. This action plan may include the following items;

- Explanation of the differences and use of the residue management practices in the FOTG, 329(A), No-Till, 329 (B), Mulch Till, 329(C) Ridge Till, and 344, Seasonal Residue Management,
- Demonstrating the tools and techniques used for obtaining in-field residue measurements,
- Documentation requirements for reporting residue management practices in conservation plans and compliance reviews,
- Using residue amounts in RUSLE2, the Wind Erosion Equation (WEE), and the conservation planning process to document soil erosion rates for existing and planned management systems,
- TAA requirements for residue management practices,
- Education, marketing and promotion of residue management practices for farmers in your area. Julie MacSwain, PAS, is available to assist with news articles, field tour announcements and other marketing ideas.
- Also identify any equipment needs that your area has for residue management practices.

If requested, Robin Martinek, Conservation Agronomist, is available to assist with Area level training on residue management practices.

In addition to these items we are also planning to conduct the 2004 CTIC Residue Management Transect through a partnership with SWCDs and other interested parties. ASTCs are also encouraged to use this survey as a training opportunity for newer NRCS employees unfamiliar with residue management practices.

We are planning to sign one Contribution Agreement with MASWCD to provide reimbursement funds for each participating District. The instructions for completion of the 2004 CTIC transect have a minimum county threshold of 100,000 acres of annually planted crops. In 2002 the following counties were determined to have less than 100,000 acres of annually cropped land; Aitkin, Anoka, Beltrami, Carlton, Cass, Chisago, Clearwater, Cook, Crow Wing, Hennepin, Hubbard, Isanti, Itasca, Kanabec, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Mille Lacs, Pine, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, St. Louis, Wadena, and Washington. All interested SWCDs can participate in this transect and receive reimbursement for their work. Each Area plan will list the counties in your area that meet the acreage threshold and list the SWCDs interested in participating in the Contribution Agreement.

To earn reimbursement SWCDs will need to complete specific deliverable items related to completion of the CTIC transect. Listed below are the estimated deliverable items and their maximum reimbursement rates and amounts:

- **Transect Data Collection –**  
Up to a maximum of 64 hours to do each county's driving transect and GPS the points where transect data was collected (2 days for 2 teams of 2 people in each county). The maximum rate allowed will be \$15 per hour and the maximum amount to be earned will be  $64 \times \$15/\text{hour} = \$960$ . The maximum Contribution Agreement rate for reimbursement is 50% of the total or \$480.  
  
If SWCD vehicles are used a maximum the allowed rate will be \$0.36/mile up to a maximum of 500 miles. The maximum mileage allowance will be  $.36/\text{mile} \times 500 \text{ miles} = \$180$ . The maximum Contribution Agreement reimbursement rate is 50% of the total or \$90.
- **Transect Data Entry –**  
4 hours to summarize the data and enter it into the CTIC website. The maximum rate allowed will be \$15 per hour and the maximum amount to be earned will be  $4 \times \$15/\text{hour} = \$60$ . The maximum Contribution Agreement reimbursement rate is 50% of the total or \$30.
- The maximum total which can be earned for independent completion of the transect is \$1200 or a 50% Contribution Agreement reimbursement rate of \$600.

Each District Conservationist will need to work with their SWCD to determine their interest in participating in the CTIC transect. Each SWCD will be reimbursed an amount (not-to-exceed \$600) based on the documented extent of their completing the deliverables listed above. The MASWCD will be providing additional guidelines for District participation in this activity. To

be eligible for participation in this partnership SWCDs must have employees who hold current NRCS issued Technical Approval Authority (TAA) for residue management practices.

Attached to this bulletin are the instructions and procedures for completing the 2004 CTIC Crop Residue Management Transect and the national bulletin which outlines the time-line for its completion.

Questions on residue management practices and the CTIC transect can be directed to Robin Martinek. Each ASTC (FO) is to provide a copy of their Area Residue Action Plan to Paul Flynn, State Resource Conservationist, by April 15, 2004.

WILLIAM HUNT  
State Conservationist

Dist: AC  
FO  
LeAnn Buck, MASWCD, St. Paul, MN